FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 APRIL 1987

DRA-Pakistan

DRA authorities announced that the aircraft shot down by Pakistani F-16's on 30 March was an Afghan passenger plane with 40 persons on board, Kabul radio reported. Pakistani aircraft intercepted the Afghan plane, which was on a regular flight from Kabul to Khowst, forced it to change course, and then shot it down, the radio claimed. The Afghan Foreign Ministry summoned the Pakistani charge, lodged a "strong" protest, and ""eriously cautioned" him that such acts will have "grave and dangerous consequences," the radio added.

Israel and the Soviet Union

Israel is no longer insisting that an Israeli delegation visit Moscow at the same time as a Soviet consular survey delegation arrives in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that Israeli leaders have agreed to allow the USSR to send its delegation before the reciprocal Israeli visit to the USSR. The Soviet Union has asked to send the delegation around the middle of April, the radio disclosed. Jerusalem television outlined a "possible scenario" in which the Soviet delegation's visit would be followed by a meeting between the Israeli and Soviet foreign ministers and by diplomatic contacts on the international conference issue.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres had earlier told Jerusalem television that there is a "slight thaw" and a "process of change" in Israeli-Soviet relations, though he warned that progress "will not be as fast or dramatic as we may wish." Peres also welcomed the apparent change in the Soviet Union's policy toward its Jewish citizens. In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that if the USSR does indeed change its policy on Jewish emigration, this will have "very great importance for Israel's status in the world and for the immigration of Jews to Eretz Yisra'el."

Lebanon

Hostages — The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) announced that it is interrogating its four hostages and will punish them if the U.S. Administration and Israel do not respond to solving their problem, Beirut radio reported. The IJLP statement, which was delivered to Beirut's *Al-Nahar*, warned that U.S. hostage Alann Steen's health continues to deteriorate. It also reiterated the terrorist group's offer to exchange the four hostages for 400 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails, AFP noted. Meanwhile, Shi'ite cleric Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah told wives of the IJLP's hostages that he will examine Steen's medical report before announcing the position of the Shari'ah in the case, the agency reported.

Arrests — Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an disclosed that security forces have arrested six people in connection with recent bomb attacks in West Beirut, according to Voice of National Resistance radio.

Chad Conflict

Chadian forces took control of an "enemy garrison" northeast of Faya-Largeau 30 March, according to a military communique carried by Ndjamena radio. Thirty Libyans were taken prisoner and 15 T-55 tanks were among the weapons captured at Ounianga, the communique noted. JANA subsequently denied any Libyan involvement in the fighting in Ounianga, asserting that there are no Libyan troops in the area.

Regarding the presence of Libyan troops in Sudan, a Chadian Foreign Ministry official said Libya is strengthening its troops there, Ndjamena radio reported. The Libyan forces are positioning themselves all along the Sudanese-Chadian border and are setting up people's committees in major towns in Sudan's Darfur region, the official said. In contrast, an official source cited by SUNA said Libyan troops in western Sudan had begun withdrawing and were now more than 150 km north of Al-Fashir, the capital of Darfur region.

Egypt

The return of the Hercules C-130 and Chinook helicopter to Libya is contingent upon the return of three Egyptians being held in that country, President Husni Mubarak declared in remarks reported by Cairo radio 1 April. Egypt will not give back the aircraft flown in by Libyan defectors unless Libya hands back the three Egyptians or tells Egypt what it has done with them, Mubarak stated.

In another development, *Al-Ahram* denied "completely unfounded" reports that Egypt is airlifting weapons and ammunition to Sudan, adding that Sudan has not requested any new military assistance from Egypt.

Iran-Iraq War

"Rangers" of Iran's Revolution Guards Corps staged an infiltration operation across the Shatt al-'Arab the night of 31 March, destroying Iraqi observation posts at Abu al-Khasib, south of Basra, Tehran radio announced. An Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA had earlier denied Iran's claim to have downed an Iraqi plane over the southern front that day.

Jordan's King Husayn concluded a brief visit to Baghdad 31 March, during which he held talks with President Saddam Husayn on the Arab situation and the Gulf war, Qatar's QNA revealed. Neither Jordanian nor Iraqi media were observed to report the visit.

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Ministry Protests Pakistani Downing of Aircraft

LD010802 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul, March 31, BAKHTAR — The concerned authorities of the DRA report that an Afghan passenger plane, Antonov 26, with 40 passengers, including two children, and crew on board was shot down by two F-16 fighter planes of Pakistani Airforce at 11 A.M. on March 30. The aircraft, which was on a regular flight from Kabul to Khowst grand district was intercepted by the F-16s, forced to change its route near the border in the airspace of Samkanai [name as received] District of Paktia Province of the DRA and was then shot down.

As admitted by the highest Pakistani authorities, the Afghan plane was shot down by air-to-air missiles, fired from the F-16 fighter planes of Pakistani Airforce.

Against this savage act, which is in violation of all accepted international norms, the charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a strong protest of the Government of the DRA was conveyed to him.

The charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was seriously cautioned that such an inhuman and aggressive act of Pakistani authorities, which is another example of the aggressive and hostile policy of this country against the DRA, will have grave and dangerous consequences. Certainly, its grave responsibility will be completely borne by the responsible authorities of Pakistan.

Such provocative and irresponsible acts of Pakistani authorities run counter to the principles of good-neighbourliness and further aggravate the situation.

The charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was apprised that the Government of the DRA will not allow any power to infringe the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and to endanger the national interests of our country.

The perpetration of such inhuman and inadmissible acts was not accidental but is part of a program which (?is carried) out by the Pakistani military authorities under the instruction, assistance, and abetment of the U.S. Administration in the past nine years, right after the victory of the April Revolution.

For instance, the delivery of a large number of Stinger missiles to the Afghan extremists is part of the interventionist program of Pakistani authorities in collusion with the U.S. Administration against our people.

Such retaliatory actions which are certainly linked with the continuous defeat of the opposition extremist groups inside our country cannot revive the vanquished spirit of the extremists and to reverse the forward movement of the process of national reconciliation which is intended to ensure peace and security in the country.

The Pakistani authorities should understand that the mendacity of their propaganda allegations on the so-called border violations by the Airforce of the DRA against Pakistan cannot be concealed by resorting to such criminal and inhuman acts.

The Government of the DRA severely denounces this inhuman action and resolutely calls upon the Government of Pakistan to put an end to such inadmissible actions and not to heighten up tension in the relations of the two countries.

According to another report, Abdol Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and minister of foreign affairs of the DRA in a letter addressed to Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations Organisation, has informed him of the incident and has called upon him to persuade the Pakistani authorities to avoid the recurrence of such actions by using his moral influence.

14 Soviet Supplied Aircraft Downed in 10 Days

BK311710 Hong Kong AFP in English 1641 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Islamabad, March 31 (AFP) — Afghan mujahidin guerrillas shot down 14 Soviet-supplied aircraft in fighting in Afghanistan in the past ten days, Western diplomats said here on Tuesday. They said there was fierce fighting last week in the provinces of Qandahar, Parvan, Logar, Paktia, and Nangarhar. At least two IL-76 aircraft arrived and departed daily at Kabul Airport amid tightened security. Material had also reportedly been moved in directly from Soviet military bases, but they had no details.

In Kabul itself two Soviet Embassy guards "disappeared" on the evening of March 23 and a hectic Soviet and Afghan house to house search failed to find them. But their uniforms were discovered in Dar ol Aman area and diplomats quoted several sources as saying that the guards had defected to the guerrillas, although no group had so far made any claim.

The diplomats also reported an increase in the downing of Afghan planes and helicopters by the mujahidin who have reportedly acquired the U.S.-made Stinger missiles.

Guerrillas downed two helicopters near the eastern Sarowbi town killing up to eight crewmen on March 20, the diplomats said, adding that in ground fighting six Soviet troops were taken prisoners in the same area.

Fighting was reportedly "very heavy" in Qandahar where the diplomats said guerrillas shot down four helicopters and killed 15 Afghan soldiers, adding that many wounded Soviets had been brought to Kabul in the past few days. "Many more" had been killed in combat in eastern Paktia near the towns of Khowst and Gardeyz, across the border from Parachinar in Pakistan, where an F-16 on Monday downed an intruding Afghan jet.

On last March 23 three helicopters were downed in Khowst while another jet was downed in the same area the next day, killing an Afghan colonel and nephew of a former defence minister, Nazar Mohammed, and several other people. Guerrillas also shot down two jets and two helicopters in Parvan while in western Herat 15 security posts were overrun.

Rebels also grounded a plane and destroyed a newly created security post only 10 kms (six miles) from Towr Kham on the Pakistan border last week, they said, adding that the post was manned by secret service KHAD agents.

The increase in the frequency of shooting down of the Afghann aircraft follows the reported acquisition of some 150 U.S. Stinger missiles by the guerrillas. Their first suspected Stinger downed a Soviet supplied plane last September. Since then reports have said the United States was planning to supply another 300 such missiles.

Mujahidin Kill, Wound 20 Soviet Troops in Paktia
BK010831 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have killed or injured 20 Soviet-Kabul troops in an attack on the border cantonment of (Khairkot) in Paktia Province. Eight military vehicles were also destroyed in the operation. Another report says that the mujahidin waylaid a military convoy in Mohammad Yar Kheyl area where a heavy quantity of ammunition was seized.

Rebel Leader Cited on Insignificant Geneva Talks
BK310905 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
21 Mar 87 p 1

[From Aurangzeb]

[Text] Lahore, March 20 — Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, President Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, viewed the Geneva talks as "insignificant exercise because only the withdrawal of Soviet Union from Afghanistan will not bring any peace in area, nor is it a complete solution of the problem".

Addressing a Press conference here today, he said that the armed struggle of the Mujahidin in Afghanistan, was aimed at two basic points: removal of the communist regime in Kabul and withdrawal of the Soviet forces. He said that any agreement arrived at Geneva would in no way be binding on the Mujahidin, as they were not a party in the talks. However, he hoped that the Government of Pakistan would not strike any agreement that was contrary to the interests of the Mujahidin. He reiterated his view point that the Afghan conflict was between the Mujahidin and Moscow.

As regards the future government in Afghanistan, Mr Hikmatyar said that consultations between the armed groups were going on. A proposal was being discussed to the effect there should be an interim government thereafter the withdrawal of the Soviet Union, assisted by indirectly elected Majlis-e-Shoora [Advisory Council].

The President of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan said that the Kabul regime's so-called peace initiative did not bring any fruit, rather it had boosted the morale of the Mujahidin as more armed operations were conducted during last three months. He described the invitation to the Mujahidin by Kabul as "ideological defeat" of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. He said that there was a major change in the attitude of Moscow. Previously, the Soviets described the Mujahidin as "bandits" now they were being called "estranged brothers". He said that the Mujahidin had rejected the Soviet proposal and put forward a unified proposal for the future of Pakistan.

Petition for Interim Government Against Constitution

BK010310 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury has called upon the people to further consolidate the successes already achieved by the nation in firmly establishing the constitutional rule in the country. In a statement in Dhaka yesterday, he underscored the need for strengthening the (?pace) of economic progress on the path of democracy based on national consensus, rising above suspicions and disunity.

Referring to a statement published in some newspapers about the present situation in the country, the prime minister said there is no provision in our Constitution to set up an interim government as demanded. The contention of the signatories to the statement is not only contrary to the Constitution but also against the established democratic norms. The prime minister said in a multiparty democratic society, the people give mandate to political parties to speak on their behalf. During the national elections, the people of this country also gave mandate to the parties which went to them to seek their verdict. The people, he pointed out, did not give mandate in favor of scrapping the Constitution nor to foil the verdict of the poll.

The prime minister expressed his firm belief that the people and all democracy-loving political parties and forces will unitedly resist such conspiracies. He said when the country is smoothly marching ahead in the socioeconomic fields, the statement makers discovered frustration and indiscipline. This is [words indistinct] to create a sense of frustration and anarchy in the country. The prime minister pointed out that substantial achievements have been made in the industrial and agricultural sectors during the last 5 years. The achievements in the growth rate by saving the economy from the past indiscipline and downward trend have been internationally acclaimed. Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury called for strengthening the pace of economic progress unitedly, rising above confusion and disunity.

Deputy Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed has said the country has a constitutional government with an elected president and elected parliament having 120 opposition members representing 11 different political parties. He was speaking at a function at Bhawal Mirzapur under Ghazipur District yesterday. He said the demand for an interim government by some intellectuals of the country is unjustified, irrelevant, and self-contradictory. The deputy prime minister said our Constitution does not have any provisions for an interim government.

Statement Printed; Editor Removed

BK311414 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Dhaka, March 31 (AFP) — The award-winning editor of a leading daily here has apparently been removed from his post after his newspaper published a statement criticial of the government, observers said Tuesday.

Kabi [Poet] Shamsur Rahman was listed as chief editor of the Bengali-language daily *Dainik Bangla* on Monday, when the newspaper published a statement demanding that an interim government replace that of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

The newspaper's Tuesday edition dropped Mr Rahman's name and instead listed his longtime deputy Ahmed Humayun as chief editor. Observers said Mr Rahman appeared to have been dropped from the post.

Mr Rahman, a leading Bangladesh poet and winner of the 1983 Mitsubishi award as "best editor of Asia" from Manila-based Asia Foundation, was among 31 prominent intellectuals who signed the anti-government declaration. The declaration drew sharp criticism from ruling party leader Zafar Iman, who said it showed "impudence" at a time when Bangladesh was "heading for a promising future."

Mr Rhaman said in a telephone interview that someone called him from the paper late Monday to say that his name was being removed "at the advice of the government."

The generally pro-government *Dainik Bangla* is overseen by a government board of trustees. Mr Rahman has been chief editor for ten years.

A journalist of daily said the decision to remove Mr Rahman's name was taken late Monday after Information Minister Anwar Zahid visited the paper and talked with Mr Humayun. "We are not clear how things happened or whether Mr Rahman is retaining his job," he said.

Meanwhile, a press conference scheduled to be addressed by Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and three cabinet ministers late Tuesday was cancelled at the last moment without explanation. Correspondents were advised of the press conference Monday shortly after the intellectuals' statement appeared in most Dhaka newspapers.

The intellectuals' declaration warned of a deep sense of frustration in Bangladesh and called for an interim non-Pakistan government to overcome what it termed a "despondent situation."

Among the signatories were former finance ministers, university vice-chancellors, senior civil servants, police chiefs and diplomats as well as leading lawyers, poets, teachers, and journalists.

BNP Urges United Movement Against Government

BK311401 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 Mar 87 p 1, 8

[Excerpt] BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] chief Begum Khaleda Zia told a massive meeting held in observance of "black day" on Tuesday, "we don't want to become a loyal opposition".

She reiterated her demands for a fresh national polls under a neutral care-taker government. Giving a call for unity for consolidation of movement against the Government the BNP chief said, "we demand resignation of President Ershad, dissolution of Parliament and restoration of democracy".

The meeting held in front of Nawab Yusuf market in a resolution announced a programme of gherao [blockading] offices of all the Deputy Commissioners on April 18 for the realisation of 15-point demands.

The programme announced at the meeting also includes holding of meetings and processions from today (Wednesday) all over the country for the realisation of demands which include fair price for agricultural produce like jute, sugarcane, reduction of price of agricultural inputs, exemption of 'agricultural and weavers' loan and withdrawal of enhanced bus fare.

Addressing the meeting amidst thunderous slogans Begum Zia said, "this corrupt Government in its five years in office has proved that it cannot deliver any good to the people".

Scathingly criticising the Government for its failure to arrest price spiral of essentials she said that the Government has no right to remain in power. The people are befooled through state controlled media — radio and television in the name of achievements during the last five years, she said.

. The economy of the country is being ruined, she said.

Begum Zia said despite repeated verdict of the people against this Government it has stuck to power.

She said on this day in 1982 the Sattar Government was removed on charges of corruptions against it. But persons against whom charges of corruption were brought have been inducted into the cabinet of this Government, she said.

Turning to the country's law and order situation Begum Zia said that people are not safe as there are frequent reports of murders, hijack and dacoity from all over the country. She said that in Jessore "a mafia group has emerged while in Jaipur Hat an 'axe group' is active."

Begum Zia also said that workers and supporters of her party were attacked and prevented from moving towards Dhaka for attending Tuesday's meeting.

Criticising the Government for refusing permission to her party to hold its meeting at Manik Mia Avenue or at Baitul Mukarram she said, "this Government is afraid of people". [passage omitted]

President Accepts Law Minister's Resignation

BK311320 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] The president has accepted the resignation of the law and justice minister, Mr Ashoke Sen. According to a Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] communique the minister of state for law and justice, Mr H.R. Bhardwaj, will temporarily look after the ministry.

West Bengal Left Front Government Sworn in 31 Mar

BK311640 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Excerpts] The third Left Front ministry in West Bengal has assumed office. A 16-member ministry led by Mr Jyoti Basu was sworn in at Raj Bhawan [Governor's House] in Calcutta today by the Governor Professor Nurul Hasan. Seven ministers, including Mr Basu, belong to the CPI-M, three each to Revolutionary Socialist Party and Forward Bloc, two from CPI, and one from the West Bengal Socialist Party. [passage omitted]

Later, speaking to newsmen, Mr Jyoti Basu said the time has come to think about a national alternative to Congress-I. He said this can be formed with the help of secular forces.

Answering questions, Mr Basu said that the Left Front would strive for more powers to the states. He expressed dissatisfaction over the delay in the submission of the Sarkaria Commission's [dealing with the center-state relations] report.

U.S. Involvement in Economic Investigation Denied

BK311652 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] The minister of state for finance, Mr Brahm Dutt, told the Lok Sabha today that the government never engaged the U.S. economic intelligence agency, Fairfax group, for investigation of cases of Indians having illegal funds abroad. Winding up a special discussion on the subject, he said the role of the U.S. agency was no more than that of an informer who could be paid some amount if the information supplied by it was found useful. He said not one paisa had been paid to the agency as it had not supplied any worthwhile information.

The minister made it clear that neither any finance minister nor any official in the ministry ever authorized any payment to the agency.

Referring to the allegations by Professor Madhu Dandavate, Janata, who initiated a discussion and by other opposition members, Mr Dutt has stated that all these were based on news reports by sources having doubtful credentials.

The minister declared that the government is committed to taking strong action against tax evaders and those who have illegal funds abroad. He quoted figures to show that a number of income tax raids have gone up against such people.

The defense minister, Mr V.P. Singh, rebutting the opposition charge told the house that the prime minister at no stage refused permission for any investigation.

In a personal explanation, Mr Amitabh Bachchan, Congress-I, against whom some allegations were sought to be made by Professor Dandavate, emphatically denied them and said they were utterly baseless.

The 4-hour debate was marked by heated exchanges between the opposition and the treasury benches, including ministers. Professor Dandavate during his speech alleged that the former finance minister, Mr V.P. Singh, had taken a file to the prime minister on 22 January and sought permission to raid certain houses. He also said that the minister of state for finance, Mr Brahm Dutt, had paid, what he called, a secret visit to Italy and Switzerland in January.

Mr Brahm Dutt said there was nothing secret in his visit to Italy, where he had gone at the invitation of the Italian Government. He did not touch Switzerland at all, he added. He also denied the allegations that certain raids at the premises of persons connected with a newspaper were motivated. He told the house that the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] had registered a case in December last year and subsequently information was received that secret papers are being sent abroad. The investigations are in progress, he added.

During the discussion, several members wanted to know why and by whom the U.S. agency was engaged. They also asked what was the specific task given to the agency? Many members urged the government to take severe action against smugglers and tax evaders.

2 Killed, 6 Injured in Police Firing in Gujarat

BK010330 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] In Gujarat, two persons were killed and six injured in police firing in Bhavnagar last evening. Police say they resorted to lathi [baton] charge and burst tear gas shells when a mob attacked them in the Ruvapuri area. As it proved futile, they opened fire. Nine persons, including five policemen, were injured in stone throwing. The situation is now reported to be under control.

The talks to resolve farmers' problems continued in the state capital in Gandhinagar yesterday. The state agriculture minister, Mr Mahant Vijaydasji, headed the cabinet subcommittee at the talks. The farmers's side was represented by an 11-member delegation of the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh [Indian Farmers Association] led by its president, Mr Rambhai Patel. Revenue and agricultural rent were discussed in detail. The discussion will continue next week.

Afghan Protest on Downing 'Civilian' Plane Protested

BK011618 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Pakistan has rejected Kabul regime's false claim that the regime's aircraft that penetrated deep into Pakistani territory and was shot down was a civilian aircraft. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that undoubtedly it was a military aircraft and it was given several warnings. But the pilot paid no heed to the warnings and consequently the plane was shot down. He said that Kabul regime's aircraft have violated Pakistan's airspace many times and Pakistan has repeatedly warned the Kabul regime to desist from such violations. Hundreds of innocent civilians as well as Afghan refugees inside Pakistani territory have been killed and wounded as a result of numerous bombing operations by Kabul regime aircraft. The spokesman made it clear that Pakistan does not at all want to see further aggravation or escalation of the Afghanistan issue. The situation imposed on Pakistan, which is the outcome of brutal bombardment on Pakistani territory by Kabul regime aircraft, is unacceptable to us. Pakistan strictly adheres to the policy of not violating the airspace of any other country. But the violation of its own territory cannot be tolerated, the spokesman added.

The Foreign Office spokesman referred to the Indian prime minister's allegation that any nuclear weapon produced by Pakistan will be the Islamic bomb which is funded by Arab countries and that it will be made available to Arabs. The spokesman said that the clear objective of this baseless allegation is to incite narrow-minded, fanatical, anti-Islam, and anti-Arab elements in the United States against Pakistan. He said that the anti-Islam and anti-Arab streak reflected in Rajiv Gandhi's imagination about Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program has disappointed those who attach prime importance to modest behavior and values in friendly relations among nations. The Foreign Office spokesman said that the hypocrisy of the Indian stand will not escape informed observers. While clamoring against Pakistan which has not tested and does not possess any nuclear device, India itself has been engaged in a clandestine nuclear program. India has not only accumulated an unsafeguarded stockpile of plutonium for dozens of atom bombs, it had also tested a nuclear bomb in 1974.

Referring to the seizure of [Pakistani] fishing trawlers and fishermen by Indian authorities, the spokesman termed it as a regrettable step. The spokesman said that Pakistan wants to evolve a way out for early resolution of incidents involving trawlers violating territorial waters so that innocent fishermen can return home after their release.

Cameroon President Makes Brief Stay in Karachi

BK311551 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] The president of Cameroon, Paul Biya, exchanged views with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq during his brief stay in Karachi today. Earlier, he was met by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq at the airport who later saw him off. Sind Governor Ashraf Tabani and Chief Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah were also present.

Briefs

Trade Agreement With Turkey — An agreement has been signed between Pakistan and Turkey envisaging annual exchange of goods worth $25 million each way. The agreement was signed in Karachi today between the leader of the Turkish delegation and the chairman of the Trading Corporation of Pakistan. *[Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Mar 87 BK]*

NEPAL

Paper Praises Recent Visit by Romania's Ceausescu

BK291700 Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 19 Mar 87 p 2

[Editorial: "Ties Restrengthened"]

[Text] Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and Madame Elena Ceausescu's three-day State visit to Nepal, which concluded Wednesday has served as yet another important chapter in restrengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. In the course of the visit by the distinguished guests from Romania, the leaders of the two nations met and discussed different issues of bilateral and global interest. It has been a consistent policy of Nepal to foster friendship with all countries of the world and promote peace at home, in the region and the world at large. The Kingdom's firm and abiding commitment to peace is amply reflected in His Majesty the King's proposal that Nepal be declared a Zone of Peace. It is a proposal that the Nepalese masses genuinely feel greatly about. The appreciation and support for the Zone of Peace proposal extended by President Ceausescu in the course of his reply speech at the State Banquet on Monday, thus making Romania the eighty-third country to do so, has indeed, added to the process of fostering better understanding and sharpening the two countries' perception of each other's aspirations.

Romania's endorsement of the Zone of Peace proposal is also in keeping with its own desire to turn the Balkans — Romania is among the nations of this region — into a zone of peace. Significantly, it has always been a declared policy of Nepal to not only seek support for its own Peace Zone proposal but also to endorse similar efforts in other parts of the world. As the Banquet speeches by His Majesty the King and President Ceausescu highlighted so well, both Nepal and Romania seek to contain the growing arms build-up in different parts of the world. The two countries also share similar views on the need to shore up the economy of the developing nations.

Though geographically apart, therefore, non-aligned Nepal and Romania, which is a member of the Warsaw Pact, share many common desires concerning peace, cooperation and development. After establishing diplomatic ties in 1968, the two countries have recorded steady growth in their relationships. Nepal already has a trade and payments agreement with Romania and the two countries, during President Ceausescu's State Visit the other day, signed a Letter of Understanding for promotion and diversification of trade. As the existing trade figures show, there is plenty of scope for furthering trade cooperation. As the Letter of Understanding mentioned in its provision, Romania will import mainly items like jute and jute goods, handicraft goods, medicinal herbs, tea and readymade garments while Nepal will import construction materials, electric goods, machine tools, trucks and the like, thus projecting a transaction of trade worth three million dollars between the two nations.

The just concluded State Visit to this country by President Ceausescu and Madame Ceausescu has enhanced and deepened the understanding between Nepal and Romania. Relations between the two have been growing in a steady manner since the last two decades or so and President Ceausescu's State Visit this week has written a new and important chapter in the Nepal-Romania ties, enriching the prospects of greater cooperation and friendship in the coming years.

SRI LANKA

Premadasa, Egyptian Prime Minister Hold Talks

BK311159 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1104 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Colombo, Mar 31 (LANKA PUWATH) — Sri Lanka will purchase more crude oil from Egypt to correct the trade imbalance between the two countries unfavourable to Egypt. This emerged at the official talks Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa held with his Egyptian counterpart Mr 'Atif Sidqi at the prime minister's residence here.

It was noted that the trade between the two countries had improved considerably in the past few years. Egypt had been one of the major buyers of Sri Lanka tea in view of the large purchases of crude oil from Egypt.

On the question of terrorism and the ethnic situation in Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Premadasa said that the majority community, the Sinhalese, had been acting with restraint and caution despite the provocations by terrorist groups and it was their desire to arrive at a peaceful solution. He said that Sri Lanka's Constitution guaranteed equal rights to all communities and all are treated equally without discrimination.

The Egyptian prime minister said that Egypt supported the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and objects to any dismemberment of the country.

A road in Egypt has also been named "Sri Lanka Street". The Egyptian prime minister told Mr Premadasa that the Egyptian Government decided to name a road after Sri Lanka in reciprocation to the gesture of naming a road after the ancient Egyptian leader Orabi Pasha in Colombo. Egypt reveres Orabi Pasha who was domiciled in Sri Lanka by the British. The naming of such a road also demonstrated the strengthening of the existing good relations between the two countries.

Mr Premadasa said that Orabi Pasha was respected by the Muslims in Sri Lanka. The house in which Orabi Pasha had been living in Kandy would be handed over to the Egyptian Embassy of Sri Lanka for the opening of a museum. Mr Sidqi thanked Mr Premadasa profusely for the initiative he has taken in this regard.

Among those who participated at the talks were Egypt's deputy foreign minister, industries minister, health minister, trade minister, and industrial research minister.

Mr K.H.J Wijeyadasa, secretary to the prime minister, Mr T.D S.A. Dissanayaka, Sri Lanka's ambassador in Cairo were also present during the talks.

The Egyptian prime minister evinced a keen interest in the housing development programme in Sri Lanka and the work connected with the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

Mr Premadasa explained the basis of the new strategy of the million houses programme. Mr Sidqi said that Egypt would shortly send a team of housing officials to study the housing programme in Sri Lanka and exchange views.

The prime minister also assured that Sri Lanka would take steps to send eyes for cornea grafting in Egypt.

On the foreign scene the prime minister of Sri Lanka recalled that Egypt and Sri Lanka were founder members of the Non-Aligned Movement and pursued identical policies in most issues in foreign affairs.

Sri Lanka also expresed support to the call to convene an international conference of peace in the Middle East.

Prime Minister Premadasa also visited the eye hospital in Cairo and met a patient who had undergone a cornea grafting with help of eyes from Sri Lanka. The patient Rafat Mohamed (45) a father of six children is doing well according to the hospital authorities.

'Terrorist' Fire Reported Outside Jaffna Fort Area
BK011434 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] A CTB [Central Transport Board] bus [words indistinct] and Muslim passengers was yesterday stopped at Pachchanur in Trincomalee by armed terrorists who robbed the passengers of money, jewelry, and other valuables and then set fire to the bus.

In Jaffna District, terrorists fired mortars toward the CPO [Central Telegraph Office] building situated (?to the north) and outside the Jaffna Fort area. The security forces in the CPO building area retaliated with mortar fire. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] using loud hailers and loud speakers attached to vans have warned the people of the (Achuli) area to abandon their homes. Their previous practice had been to force people out of their homes and [words indistinct] when the security forces approached (?them).

The security forces raided an EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] hideout in Neelakattu-Karadiyanaru yesterday. Terrorists abandoned their hideout on seeing the security forces (?arriving).

At Palaimadu, a security force patrol was fired upon by the LTTE terrorists. In the confrontation, two terrorists were killed. At Volankulam in the Mannar District, mortars and RPG's were fired at the [words indistinct].

Musavi, Rafiqdust Mark National Day, Guard Day

LD011535 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 1, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today warned "the countries which are plotting" against the Islamic Republic that "your conspiracies will in no way check the tidal waves unleashed by the Islamic Revolution throughout the globe." Musavi assured these countries that "today, the message of our revolution has already been exported."

Speaking to a huge crowd of people here in a ceremony marking the eighth anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic, the prime minister also vowed that the Iraqi imposed war will end only in an Iranian victory.

The prime minister strongly lashed out at the Tunisian ruler Habib Bourguiba for severing ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and described him as "a U.S. puppet." He also mocked at Tunisia's description of "Islamic forces" as "reactionary" and said, "Islamic nations are rising up and this is a profound movement."

Musavi also regretted that the Bourguiba regime suppressed the "eager Muslim forces in Tunisia who are demanding a free country" by labelling them as "fundamentalists." "Struggle against the U.S. is not fundamentalism; fight against black colonialism is not fundamentalism," he further noted.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the prime minister advised the regional countries that "it is not in your interest to be with the U.S. but with a powerful Islamic Republic." He also urged these states not to support Iraq's Saddam Husayn whom he described as "a corpse."

The prime minsiter further advised the Arab states in the region that they would not benefit from inviting the U.S. to the Persian Gulf. "You'd better be with your Muslim people whose power is stronger than that of any other power," he told them. "What share the U.S. has in the Persian Gulf?" asked Musavi, adding that "who has granted the oil wells to the U.S.?" He added that the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, the Arabian Sea, and the Indian Ocean all belong to the littoral states. "We warn them that linking their destiny to that of the U.S. and Saddam will not have a happy consequence for them," Musavi said, addressing the Arab states of the Persian Gulf.

"We are not seeking war in the region. We want an atmosphere where the regional countries, governments, and people would preserve security themselves with no foreign trade.

The prime minister also pointed out that the regional governments "must recognise the right and power of Islam." He said secret talks with Israel would never succeed in curtailing "these great Islamic waves."

On the Iraqi-imposed war, the prime minister expressed confidence that it will end in an Iranian victory. He said the war has been imposed on Iran to defeat Islam and described it as a war of blasphemy against Islam. "Therefore, it is natural that this war could not end but in dignity for Muslims and victory for the Islamic state."

Musavi said Iran did not enjoy the modern arms of the big powers, their economic strength and their mass media, "but instead we have a more powerful weapon, that is our people's martyrdom-seeking spirit." "This is what enabled us to stand against the U.S. and rub its nose in the ground," Musavi said, adding that "there is no technique, no weapon, and no means capable of confronting this weapon." He said Iran's war victories against Iraq last year stemmed from the true stability of the Islamic Republic system of government.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the prime minister said "We can in no way return to the American culture and our nation will never do so. The people have stood against any move to this end and will continue to stand."

The prime minister said Iran's foreign, internal, and cultural policy should be "to defend the oppressed and deprived masses."

On relations with world governments, the prime minister said Iran favored expansion of her relations with the entire world "within the framework of our own principles and logically." "We are prepared to establish excellent relations with world countries but would not keep quiet vis-a-vis the countries which plot against us," Musavi noted. "One of our policies is blow for blow," he said, adding that "you support our counterrevolutionaries, you make provocations against us, your mass media are writing false stories about us every day, you are scheming to damage the Islamic Republic's credibility, you want to trample upon our rights in the world and freeze our money, but the Islamic Republic has been formed to stand against coercion."

Musavi also said that many facts remained untold about the former regime some of which, he said, would be soon disclosed by one of the former shah's close aides, General Hussein Fardust [name as received] in a television confession.

During the ceremony in Imam Huseyn Square, the missile unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) paraded before the rally while a number of IRGC helicopters showered the crowd with flowers and rained leaflets reiterating the continuation of war until victory. The thunderous cries of "Death to the U.S." echoed in the enormous span of the square.

Meanwhile, when the prime minister was speaking, the anti-aircraft unit of the IRGC fired several shells into the air thus demonstrating its preparedness to confront any violation by the Baghdad regime of Iran's airspace.

Before the prime minister's speech, IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust spoke to the crowd warning Iraq if it resumed its attacks on Iranian cities, "we will level Baghdad to the ground with our missiles."

The minister said Iran did not intend to close the Strait of Hormuz but warned the waterway will remain open "as long as it is secure for us and we will not allow any power to make the strait unsafe." "We declare today that we will suppress any aggressor in the sea, over the sky, and on the ground, with our powerful missiles," he vowed.

The ceremony in Imam Hoseyn Square also marked 'Pasdar' or Revolutionary Guard Day which is held annually on the birth anniversary of Imam Hoseyn (AS) — the martyr of Karbala' — this year falling on April 2.

Commander Reza'i Views Guards Day

LD311836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Mr Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in a television interview today on the occasion of Guards Day described the results of the combat operations of the combatants of Islam during the year just ended [on 20 March].

Referring to 30 major and minor operations of the combatants of Islam during the past year, he said: During the past year, in the process of carrying out 30 major and minor operations, our combatants succeeded in killing or wounding more than 200,000 enemy troops. During the same period, close to 8,000 enemy troops were captured.

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps added: During the past year, we had about 200 calendar days of active clashes with the enemy during which at least 150 aircraft, close to 70 helicopters, an estimated 6,800 tanks and personnel carriers, and 3,000 vehicles of the enemy were destroyed. Approximately 400 battalions of the enemy were also destroyed by 20 to 100 percent.

Mr Mohsen Reza'i added: The volume of the fire of the combatants of Islam was so heavy that if we look at it in a comparative sense, we see that the active clashes with the enemy during the past year equalled approximately 4 years of active clashes during the imposed war with the enemy and matched a total of 6 year's worth of ammunition dumped on the enemy's head.

Political Figure Reported Ill; Successors Mentioned

TA312004 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kavyani Banner in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] According to confirmed reports that have reached us, Azari-Qomi, head of the *Resalat* newspaper and foundation, is suffering from leukemia. Some of our costrugglers report from Tehran that Azari-Qomi rejected a proposal by the Islamic regime's prime minister that he travel abroad for treatment in Britain or West Germany.

It is worth noting that Azari-Qomi is one of the staunchest opponents of Mir Hoseyn Musavi and Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During the past 3 years he voiced opposition to these two individuals several times, both in the Islamic Majlis and in *Resalat* newspaper. Meanwhile doctors treating Azari-Qomi say that his illness has progressed so far that even foreign doctors can do nothing about it. In Tehran several persons, including 'Ali Akbar Parvaresh, Khomeyni's former minister of education and training, and Islamic Majlis Deputy Nateq Nuri, are being mentioned as Azari-Qomi's potential successors.

Envoy to China Denies Report on PRC Arms Sale

LD311856 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Beijing, March 31, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran has relied on the open market for its arms requirements during the past six years of the Iraqi-imposed war, said the Iranian ambassador to China, here Tuesday.

Refuting reports in the Western media of the alleged sale of Chinese arms to Iran, Ala'eddin Broujerdi, the Iranian envoy told IRNA that as Iranian authorities have repeatedly announced such news are mischievous rumours spread by world arrogance. [sentence as received]

On Beijing-Tehran ties, he said that the two sides are satisfied with the trend of bilateral relations which are expanding further each day.

He said that the Iranian Health Minister 'Ali Reza Marandi is expected to head a high ranking delegation to China next month. Broujerdi said that the letter of understanding, signed by the deputy prime minister of the two countries, last year is in the process of execution by Irano-Chinese officials.

'First' Sudanese Ambassador Presents Credentials

LD312341 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA — The First Sudanese ambassador to Iran Ibrahim Ahmad Hamra met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, here Tuesday, and submitted a copy of his credentials.

During the meeting, Hamra pointed to the expansion of bilateral relations in the past few months, and described Velayati's recent visit to Sudan as "extremely successful".

The Sudanese ambassador expressed hope that he would be able to take measures for further expansion of fraternal relations between the two Muslim countries during his tenure in Iran.

Velayati pointed to the importance of Sudan in Africa, and noted that it has played a major part in the history of Islam and was the gate of Islam to Africa. He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran is aware of the plots against Sudan's sovereignty and its Islamic identity and supports Sudan vis-a-vis all these plots.

The Iranian foreign minister also described the Sudanese premier's visit to Iran last December as a turning point in the two countries' relations and hoped that the Sudanese ambassador would be successful in his efforts to help implement mutual agreements between the two sides.

Mohtashemi Urges Participation in Majlis Elections

LD312039 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Prov., IRNA — The third Majlis (parliamentary) election will be held nationwide late this year, announced minister of interior, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, here Tuesday. He also disclosed that a gang of counterrevolution-

ary grouplets were routed in a border clash with Iranian Armed Forces, recently.

Calling on eligible voters from all walks of life to participate in the forthcoming elections, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi said that his ministry was all geared up to hold the parliamentary polls.

On the recent routing of outlawed elements, Mohtashemi disclosed that 25 out of a 120 member counterrevolutionary gang, attempting to raid an Iranian outpost on the western borders in Ilam Province, were killed or wounded by Iran's Gendarmerie forces during a recent clash. The rest were forced to flee to Iraq, he added.

The routed gangsters were members of the outlawed Monafeqin (Hypocrites) Khalq organisation (MKO) [Mojahedin-e Khalq] and other grouplets which are backed and equipped by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime to fight the Islamic Republic, Mohtashemi said.

He added that a large amount of arms, ammunitions, and other military equipment, including infra-red and ordinary binoculars and various advanced communication sets were seized by the Iranian Gendarmes, in the encounter.

Mohtashemi who is here to swear-in Hamid Hajj-Abdulwahab as the new provincial governor-general, lauded the Armed Forces for their alertness in maintaining the peace and security of the country.

Iraq Cracks Down on Muslim Brotherhood Supporters

LD010906 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] London, March 31, IRNA — Saddam Hussayn has cracked down on the supporters of the Ikhwan al-Muslimin (Muslim Brotherhood) in Iraq to display his anger at the group's recent statement condemning the Iraqi regime for its war against the Islamic Republic.

More than 2,500 supporters of the group have been rounded up in the last two months, according to a report in the latest issue of the *Crescent International*. It said the wave of arrests followed a statement issued by the international organization of the Ikhwan al-Muslimin, clarifying its stand towards the Iraqi-imposed war.

The group said it "condemned the side which started the war, its causes, and those who have helped in prolonging it." Clearly implicating Iraq, it declared that the Ikhwan are against chemical warfare and the killing of Muslim people in their cities. It specifically referred to the Iraqi air raid on a school in Mianeh, northwestern Iran, which martyred scores of young schoolgirls.

"As soon as the statement was released, the Ba'thist authorities cracked down," it said. "According to Ikhwan sources, by mid-March more than 2,500 people were arrested."

Meanwhile strong pressure was put on the Ikhwan leadership to withdraw the statement to the extent that the Saudi daily, *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* said the Ikhwan had denied issuing such a statement. But 'Abd Al-Hamid Abu Nassar, the leader of the Ikhwan, denied having withdrawn it.

After the Islamic Revolution, Saudi influence on a section of the Ikhwan leadership and Iran's close relationship with Syria combined to distract the Iraqi branch of the Ikhwan from opposition to Ba'thist rule. "Recent reports suggest some evidence that this attitude was changing," said the *Crescent International*. Last December a representative of Ikhwan's Iraqi branch, Kussai Fahmi [name as received], took part in a broad-based Iraqi opposition conference in Tehran.

The Ikhwan al-Muslimin were the target of government suppression in 1963, when the Ba'thists came to power for the first time. During their brief rule they focused their repression mainly on the Ikhwan and the Al-Tahrir Party.

Communique No 2,792 Reports Iraqi Plane Downed

LD031608 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA — Another Iraqi warplane was shot down in the "Karbala'-5" operational theater in Shalamcheh, southern fronts, by Iranian anti-aircraft fire at 08:50 GMT Tuesday, said a military communique issued here.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,792 said that Iraqi forces suffered substantial losses in men and equipment thrcughout the fronts Monday in artillery duels with Muslim forces of Iran, which raged more heavily in Hajj 'Umran, Sar Dasht, and Talayeh.

In the northwestern fronts Monday, Iranian Mulsim combatants reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions, killing a number of enemy soldiers and destroying several bunkers of theirs.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and several bunkers and vehicles of their destroyed in the southern fronts by Iranian artillery fire Monday.

Artillery fire of Iranian forces on a group of Iraqi tanks in Yabis and Nahr-e 'Anbar, southern fronts, suppressed its activities Monday.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces halted Iraqi engineering operations in parts of the southern and western fronts Monday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers.

Movement of Iraqi motorized columns in Qasr-e Shirin, Naft-e Shahr, and Badra as well as reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters in Sar Dasht, Bubiyan, and Kushk were checked by Iranian artillery and anti-aircraft fire yesterday, the communique concluded.

No 2,793 Reports 'Ambush Missions'

LD011703 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 1, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants, directing their heavy artillery fire on Iraqi positions, checked all activities of enemy forces and silenced their fire throughout the battlefronts Tuesday, according to the 2793d Joint Staff communique released here Wednesday.

The Iranian defenders seized two Iraqi mortar launchers, destroying an enemy tank, four vehicles, and 10 armament emplacements as well as killing many soldiers in the said operations.

The communique added that 24 patrol units of Division 64 carried out various ambush and reconnaissance missions inflicting heavy losses and damage upon the Iraqi troops over the past 24 hours. All Iranian patrol units returned to their base safely after the successful attacks. One of the patrol groups also seized two Iraqi mortar launchers and transferred them intact behind the fronts.

An Iraqi patrol unit was subjected to Iranian artillery fire in the Chazzabeh region of the southern fronts and was forced to flee with some losses.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces demolished 10 emplacements of various Iraqi armaments, killing more than five soldiers over the said period, concluded the Joint Staff communique.

IRGC 'Rangers' Cross Shatt al-'Arab, Infiltrate Iraq

LD011112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report the general headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] announced the following:

The IRGC Ground Force Rangers crossed the Shatt al-'Arab River last night during an infiltration attack deep inside the positions of the Iraqi Ba'thist Zionist forces and, using the most advanced military tactics, succeeded in destroying the Iraq Abul-Khasib petrochemical installations which the Zionist enemy were using as observation towers. The forces of the regime ruling over Iraq suffered considerable losses.

According to this report, after completing these operations, all the forces of Islam returned to their bases safely.